

without the dignity they have a right to.

We, in Congress, have the power to end poverty. We must act immediately with resolve, moral clarity, and with complete attention to the lives of poor people who demand to be seen and respected with our actions.

That is why I am so proud to co-introduce with Representative BARBARA LEE this bold and necessary resolution that commits Congress to eradicating poverty from the bottom up.

Mr. Speaker, today, we say to poor people everywhere, we see you, and we will eradicate poverty in our country with you.

REMEMBERING CHARLES ELSON "BUDDY" ROEMER, III

(Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise in memory of Charles Elson "Buddy" Roemer, III, who was born October 4, 1943, and died on May 17 of this year, a couple of days ago, went home to his reward.

Buddy was a very nice guy, and he had a saying: "I love Louisiana, but I hate Louisiana politics." Many of us can understand that remark.

He was an American patriot, an investor, and a banker. He served in this body, the House of Representatives, from 1981-1988. He was the 52nd Governor of Louisiana, 1988-1992. He will be missed, remembered, loved, and respected.

RENEWING AMERICA'S FAILING WATER SYSTEMS

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, we must act swiftly and with boldness to renew America's failing water systems.

We know the heartache of failing water systems all too well: lead, PFAS, disruptive water main breaks, and unaffordable bills.

Yesterday, I introduced bold national drinking water legislation, written with my friend, the chair of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, FRANK PALLONE, to restore America's most critical infrastructure, and one of our most basic responsibilities of government, our drinking water systems.

The AQUA Act delivers on President Joe Biden's promise to remove every lead service line in the country, including removing lead from the drinking water systems of some 400,000 schools and childcare centers.

Our bill invests heavily in the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, to put resources in the hands of folks on the ground who know what their communities need.

It delivers a financial lifeline to local water systems in return for a multi-

year commitment that they will not shut off anyone's water because of financial hardship during this devastating and prolonged pandemic.

Let's rise to meet the moment. Let's do our jobs. Let's build back the right way so every American can use and trust the water coming out of our taps.

URGING PRESIDENT BIDEN TO NOMINATE AN AMBASSADOR AT LARGE FOR THE OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

(Mr. HILL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the rising rate of religious persecution around the world, where billions are persecuted for practicing their chosen faith.

One of the tools we have to combat global religious injustice is the Office of International Religious Freedom at the State Department. However, this office remains without leadership. Thus far, President Biden has neglected to appoint an ambassador-at-large for International Religious Freedom.

That is why I led a bipartisan and bicameral letter to President Biden to take action and appoint an ambassador-at-large for International Religious Freedom.

Religious freedom is one of the most basic human rights, Mr. Speaker, yet religious persecution continues around the world in countries like Iran, Russia, and China.

President Biden must act now and nominate this ambassador and give the U.S. Government a leading voice to combat this persecution and ensure a future where all mankind can freely practice their religion of choice without fear.

STANDING IN SOLIDARITY WITH ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS

(Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solidarity with my Asian American and Pacific Islander brothers and sisters.

Asian Americans continue to experience violence, harassment, and discrimination. Across our country, our AAPI communities live in fear of being targets of deadly violence and racist slurs, simply because of who they are.

As we work to invest and rebuild our communities, we must make one thing clear: Hate and racism have no home here, not in our policies, and not in our hearts.

Yesterday, we passed the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act to send to the President's desk. Today, we passed a resolution condemning the horrific shooting in Atlanta.

We are making progress, but we must never lose sight of the work that lies ahead to combat the hatred and violence against the AAPI community and root out racism against our brothers and sisters.

SMALL BUSINESS IS THE MAIN DRIVER OF NEW JOBS

(Mr. FORTENBERRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, a while back, I visited a small business called Craft Axe Throwing and Beer. What an interesting combination of activities, I thought. I had driven by it a number of times, but I stopped in one day. Seeing this team make a living, enjoying themselves, I thought to myself, that is what it is all about.

Mr. Speaker, the main driver of new jobs in America is small business. The good news is that unemployment has been on a steady downward trend. But now, the hard news: the April jobs report. It was bad. At the same time, small business owners report that they can't fill the job openings that they have. Why? Earlier necessary government assistance during the pandemic is now interfering with the successful transition back to meaningful work.

A little good news: Wages are going up. Let's let America run.

ENCOURAGING APPLICATIONS FOR UNITED STATES SERVICE ACADEMIES

(Ms. SCANLON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage young people in my district to learn more about the opportunities offered by our U.S. service academies.

One of the greatest honors of being a Member of Congress is having the ability to nominate outstanding students for appointment to West Point, the Naval Academy, the Air Force Academy, and the Merchant Marine Academy.

As high school students contemplate what they will do after graduation, I encourage them to consider the benefits of attending one of our service academies, including the unique opportunities for leadership and entry to a range of careers, at no cost to the student or their family.

The process is competitive, so it is never too early to get started.

I encourage any students in Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District who might be interested in attending a service academy to attend our next virtual information session hosted by my office on May 27 at 7 p.m. They may sign up at scanlon.house.gov.

I look forward to nominating another amazing group of young leaders to the service academies this fall.

ISRAEL HAS THE RIGHT TO
DEFEND ITSELF

(Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, for 10 days, moms, dads, and grandparents have been lying awake at night, waiting for the inevitable warning call of sirens to pick up their children and run to the nearest bomb shelter.

No one should live with this type of fear. No one should live with the fear that missiles could rain down and destroy their homes and lives at any moment. Yet, this is the reality that many Israeli families are living right now.

For 10 days, Israel has been defending itself from attacks launched by Iranian-backed terrorists. Let's be clear: Israel has the right to defend herself and its homeland from terrorist attacks.

Israel is one of the United States' greatest allies in the Middle East, and we cannot waver in our support of Israel during this challenging time.

Today, I am standing with the people of Israel, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

My hope is that peace and calm can quickly be restored in the region. Until that happens, we must continue standing in solidarity with the Nation of Israel and its people.

ATTACK ON JEWISH PEOPLE IN
LOS ANGELES

(Mr. SHERMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, over the last 5 years, we have seen a 40 percent increase in anti-Semitic hate crimes. Most are lone wolf property crimes, late at night.

But last night in Los Angeles, we saw something new: organized violence. A small caravan of SUVs, waving Palestinian flags, drove to a significantly Jewish neighborhood. Dozens of men, wearing all black, with faces covered, disembarked at a restaurant, chanting "death to the Jews." They demanded that diners either answer the question: "Are you Jewish?" And if they answered "yes" or they objected to the question, they were beaten, some sent to the hospital.

Nearby, an Orthodox Jew, dressed distinctively, was chased down by a caravan waving Palestinian flags. He ran for his life, and thank God, he found safety.

The Los Angeles Police Department will investigate these hate crimes. I also ask that those who criticize the Israeli Government to avoid rhetoric which will infuse these anti-Semites with the view that they are somehow part of the American mainstream.

ONGOING TERRORIST ATTACKS
AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

(Mr. JACKSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JACKSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express support for one of our most loyal allies, Israel.

Unlike many of my colleagues across the aisle, I will not waver in my support for democracy, and I will not turn a blind eye to the ongoing terrorist attacks against the State of Israel.

The simple fact is, Israel uses weapons to protect its citizens from terrorism, and Hamas uses its weapons with the goal of murdering civilians and annihilating the State of Israel as a whole.

There is no moral equivalence between the two, and any attempt to make Israel out as the aggressor is not rooted in fact. Israel has the right to defend itself as a sovereign country.

In 2014, Congress unanimously passed a Democrat-led resolution condemning Hamas attacks on Israel after they had launched approximately 300 rockets.

This time, Hamas has launched over 4,000 rockets into Israel in just 10 days, yet, it is not clear to me that Democrats in this House would support a similar resolution today.

That is a sad and problematic shift.

Congress must continue its support for U.S. aid to Israel, and Congress must confront terrorists and their backers, like Iran.

CRISIS AT THE SOUTHERN
BORDER

(Mr. CAWTHORN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CAWTHORN. Mr. Speaker, according to recent data from my district, the number one concern of my constituents is the Biden border crisis. Let me repeat that: The number one concern of my constituents in North Carolina is the crisis at our southern border, over 1,600-miles away.

It is beyond clear that the response by the Biden administration has not simply been weak; it has also been counterproductive. Americans nationwide are sensing what the international community has known for the past 6 months: Our leaders are not strong, our border is open, and America is ripe for the taking.

Fifteen hundred illegal immigrants cross into our country daily without ever being tracked, according to border data. Two Yemeni men on a terror watchlist were just apprehended at the border, and this administration has turned a blind eye to one of our biggest national security crises in recent history.

Mr. Speaker, I am disappointed, because it seems that the political maneuvering of one select class has co-opted the good of the people. What can we, as individual Americans, do in the face of such abject disregard for our well-being? We can speak out.

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PROMISING ECONOMIC RECOVERY

(Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight Oklahoma's efforts to bolster its economy and get its citizens back to work.

There is no doubt the pandemic caused not only illness, but major interruption in our daily lives. Millions became jobless through no fault of their own and had to rely on additional Federal unemployment assistance to survive.

But today the situation has changed, Mr. Speaker. We have a rebounding economy and over 158 million Americans have received at least one vaccine dose. With more than 8 million job openings nationwide, the time has come to encourage Americans to get back to work.

The continued expansion of Federal assistance is hampering this promising economic recovery across the country and in my home State of Oklahoma.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say Oklahoma is leading the country's economic recovery by providing \$1,200 signing bonuses beginning in June, for individuals who go back to work and stay employed for six continuous weeks. There are over 68,000 job postings in Oklahoma currently, with 7,500 in Oklahoma City alone. These are good-paying jobs across a variety of industries, including the energy and manufacturing sectors. Hundreds of employers are offering competitive wages and generous benefits.

ANTI-SEMITISM ON THE RISE

(Mr. GOHMERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, this is a very sad time in America. As was discussed earlier today in debate, we used to have bipartisan agreements on things. One of those was when anti-Semitism was raising its ugly head. One party here on the floor still speaks up against, will vote against anti-Semitic statements and call them out for what they are, and another will not.

I heard my friend across the aisle, BRAD SHERMAN, just appropriately decrying the violence, these anti-Jewish folks in California, this incident. Well, that surely could be something we could once again, come back together in a bipartisan way and condemn the 40 percent rise in violence against Semitic people. It is time to come together on that. It will show the world.

STAND UP AGAINST HATE

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, in this short period of time, I offer several